

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 07461 281040Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

----- 019706

P R 280900Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 537

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USEC BRUSSELS 949

US MISSION GENEVA 607

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ELAB, SP

SUBJ: MODERATE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST

OPPOSITIONISTS ARRESTED AT MEETING

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLICE ARRESTED ON NOV 26 SEVERAL
PROMINENT NATIONAL LEADERS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND
SOCIALIST GROUPS WHILE LATTER WERE MEETING IN MADRID TO
DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A NON-COMMUNIST
"CONFERENCIA DEMOCRATICA", WHICH MIGHT PROVE A FORMIDABLE
RIVAL TO THE COMMUNIST-BACKED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" IN
PARIS. POLICE DID NOT ACT (PERHAPS DELIBERATELY), HOWEVER, UNTIL
MOST PROMINENT OPPOSITIONIST PRESENT, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND
ONE-TIMEFRANCO CABINET MINISTER JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, HAD LEFT
MEETING. ARRESTS ARE FIRST SUCH ACTION AGAINST MODERATE
OPPOSITION GROUPS IN SOME TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOV 26 POLICE ARRESTED 14 PROMINENT MODERATE
OPPOSITIONISTS REPRESENTING FOUR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 07461 281040Z

AT LEAST THREE SOCIALIST GROUPS, WHILE THEY WERE MEETING

AT THE LAW OFFICES OF ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS IN A MADRID RESIDENTIAL AREA. AMONG THE GROUPS REPRESENTED WERE THE INDEPENDENT (IDC) GROUPING OF JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (DSC) GROUP OF JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES, THE CATALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPING (UDC) THE BASQUE NATIONALIST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PNV), THE "YOUNG TURK" PSOE SOCIALIST PARTY, THE MSC CATALAN REGIONALIST SOCIALIST PARTY, AND THE NEWLY RECONSTITUTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUPING (USDE) OF DIONISIO RIDRUEJO.

2. AMONG PROMINENT MODERATE OPPOSITION LEADERS ARRESTED WERE JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES, THE SON OF THE CATHOLIC CENTRIST LEADER DURING THE REPUBLIC, JAIME CORTEZO, SECRETARY OF IDC AND PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANT OF JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ; ANTONIO CANELLAS, PRINCIPAL LEADER OF CATALAN UDC; JUAN AJURRIAGUERRA OCHANDIANO, A BASQUE PNV LEADER, FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ, NEWLY ELECTED FIRST SECRETARY OF "YOUNG TURK" SOCIALIST PSOE; NICOLAS REDONDO, PRINCIPAL WORKER MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOTH OF "YOUNG TURK" SOCIALIST PSOE PARTY AND UGT TRADE UNION; JOSE PALLACH, PRINCIPAL LEADER OF CATALAN SOCIALIST MSC; DIONISIO RIDRUEJO, LEADER OF NEW USDE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUPING (WHICH IS PRIMARILY A RECONSTITUTION OF RIDRUEJO'S OLD LIBERAL "ACCION DEMOCRATICA" PARTY); AND ANTONIO GARCIA LOPEZ, PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANT OF RIDRUEJO IN NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP. JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, LEADER OF IDC, WAS ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING. HOWEVER ARRESTS TOOK PLACE 10 MINUTES AFTER RUIZ GIMENEZ HAD EXCUSED HIMSELF AND LEFT THE MEETING EARLY FOR ANOTHER COMMITMENT, AND THUS RUIZ GIMENEZ WAS NOT AMONG THOSE DETAINED. REPORTEDLY ALL THOSE DETAINED WERE STILL BEING HELD AS OF THIS MORNING, ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL OR MOST OF THEM WILL BE RELEASED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY TODAY OR TOMORROW.

3. ACCORDING TO OPPOSITION SOURCES, PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FORMATION OF LONG-AWAITED "CONFERENCIA DEMOCRATICA" WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A DEMOCRATIC COUNTER-WEIGHT TO THE "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" IN PARIS FORMED IN JULY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 07461 281040Z

BY COMMUNIST SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO IN COMBINATION WITH A FEW DEMOCRATIC AND BOURGEOIS SPANISH GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE MOST PROMINENT PERSON PRESENT, JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, WAS NOT ARRESTED, AND IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT POLICE DELIBERATELY WAITED UNTIL RUIZ GIMENEZ LEFT BEFORE

MAKING ARRESTS TO AVOID THE OUTCRY THAT WOULD ARISE FROM THE ARREST OF A ONE-TIME FRANCO CABINET MINISTER AND PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FIGURE. HOWEVER, SHOULD AUTHORITIES SEEK TO KEEP ANY OR ALL OF THOSE ARRESTED IN DETENTION FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY FROM FOREIGN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST PARTIES AND GROUPS IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD BE SEVERE. THUS IT BELIEVED LIKELY THOSE DETAINED WILL SOON BE FREED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY SO AS TO STILL ANY INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS.

5. IT IS ALSO GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT POLICE MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THIS CLANDESTINE MEETING THROUGH AN INFORMANT. THERE IS SOME SUSPICION THAT THE INFORMANT MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN ANTONIO GARCIA LOPEZ, THE LAWYER IN WHOSE OFFICE MEETING WAS TAKING PLACE, AND A PERSON SOMETIMES ACCUSED BY OPPOSITIONISTS IN PAST YEARS OF BEING A POLICE INFORMANT. ADDING FUEL TO THIS THEORY IS ONE VERSION THAT GARCIA LOPEZ HIMSELF MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, ALTHOUGH PRESS AND OTHER REPORTS LIST HIM AS AMONG THOSE DETAINED.

6. ARRESTS ARE A SET BACK TO HOPES OF SEVERAL OF MODERATE OPPOSITION GROUPS AT MEETING TO FORM NON-COMMUNIST "CONFERENCIA DEMOCRATICA", AN IDEA WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN STUDYING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. REPORTEDLY MEETING WAS FIRST OF ALL DIFFERENT POSSIBLE GROUPS INTERESTED IN SUCH AN ALLIANCE. IN THIS RESPECT ARRESTS MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SHORTSIGHTED ON PART OF GOVT AS ARRESTS MAY BENEFIT THE RIVAL JUNTA DEMOCRATICA, WHICH WOULD LIKE TO ATTRACT THESE SAME GROUPS TO ITSELF AND HOPES FOR THE FAILURE OF ANY EFFORTS TO FORM A ANTI-JUNTA COUNTERWEIGHT GROUPING WITHOUT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 07461 281040Z

7. EVEN IF THOSE ARRESTED ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, EFFECT INTERNATIONALLY IS BOUND TO BE NEGATIVE, INASMUCH AS GROUPS REPRESENTED HAVE STRONG INTERNATIONAL TIES (E.G. YOUNG TURK PSOE IS A MEMBER OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND FOUR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, I.E., IDC, DSC, PNV, AND UDC, ARE ALL MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION. IRONICALLY LATTER ORGANIZATION HELD MEETING IN PARIS THIS PAST WEEK END WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY LEADERS OF EACH OF FOUR SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, INCLUDING JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ.

8. ARRESTS OF THESE LEADING MODERATE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST FIGURES IS FIRST SUCH SIZEABLE ACTION AGAINST

MODERATE OPPOSITION GROUPS IN SOME YEARS.

EATON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISM, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LABOR UNIONS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID07461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740346-0007
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974115/aaaaaeay.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODERATE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST OPPOSITIONISTS ARRESTED AT MEETING
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ELAB, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005